Announcing the National Security Cyber Assistance Program (NSCAP) Call for Applications

The National Security Agency (NSA) Information Assurance Directorate (IAD) provides cyber security assistance services to the owners and operators of National Security Systems (NSS). The growing sophistication and number of cyber attacks necessitates an equally vigorous and rapid response. In exploring available approaches, NSA/IAD developed a strategy to leverage the expertise of cyber security industry leaders. This newly formed strategic initiative is called the National Security Cyber Assistance Program (NSCAP).

NSCAP's mission is to identify and accredit companies qualified to provide rapid, on-site cyber assistance support to NSS owners and operators. Cyber Incident Response Assistance (CIRA) accreditation, which addresses both intrusion detection and incident response, is NSCAP's initial accreditation offering. CIRA accreditation was recently awarded to seven commercial organizations as the result of the pilot program. The CIRA accreditation application process requires organizations to:

- Consistently deliver CIRA services using repeatable processes and procedures
- Represent that they provide specific types of incident response assistance services
- Provide copies of the processes and procedures used to deliver CIRA services
- Assign highly skilled and qualified staff to follow those processes and procedures
- Maintain and improve the quality of delivered services through training initiatives, continuous improvement of analytical capabilities, and using lessons learned to refine the processes and procedures

Building on this success, NSA/IAD is announcing the next call for NSCAP CIRA accreditation application packages. Applications will be accepted beginning at **12 noon EST on 6 August 2014. The application submittal period will remain open until 10 applications deemed acceptable for evaluation have been received.** Organizations will have the opportunity to submit application packages during subsequent open call periods, which will occur on a periodic basis.

Application packages should be submitted in compliance with the NSCAP CIRA Accreditation Instruction Manual, version 3.0 which is available for download at:
http://www.nsa.gov/ia/programs/cyber_assistance_program/index.shtml.

Application packages should be emailed to the NSCAP Program Office at NSCAP@nsa.gov.

Candidate organizations are requested to:

- Complete the forms in Appendix C at the end of the manual including the Application Content Checklist.
- Add supplemental content as needed.

- Mark all submitted content separately with your organization's name and the name of the application component, i.e. [Organization Name] & [Section Name].

Application package may be submitted using multiple emails if required. However, attachments to a single email should be smaller than 10 MB in size.

NSCAP Accreditation Terms and Conditions:

1. Submitting an application does not guarantee accreditation.
2. NSA/IAD does not charge for any portion of the accreditation process nor will it provide funding to organizations to prepare or submit an application.
3. CIRA accreditation recognizes an organization's CIRA capabilities as a potential benefit to members of the NSS community. Any subsequent relationship between an accredited CIRA organization and an NSS owner or operator is outside the scope of this accreditation and the NSCAP Office.
4. The issuance of an accreditation will not directly result in the accredited company or its staff receiving or qualifying for a U.S. Government clearance or a U.S. Government contract.
5. NSA/IAD will acknowledge the receipt of each application and will provide organizations with periodic status reports on the progress of their application throughout the evaluation process.
6. Applications will be reviewed in the order received.
7. The intent of the Government is to evaluate, at a minimum, ten [10] applications per call.
8. NSA/IAD will notify organizations of any application package content that needs to be clarified or requires additional information to be provided. In such cases, the organization will be provided an opportunity to provide the needed clarification or information. Failure to provide the needed information in accordance with the agreed to schedule will result in the application content being scored as originally submitted.
9. Application processing will be managed and performed by Government staff with (SETA/A-76) contractor support.
10. Any organization receiving CIRA accreditation will be required to submit all its marketing materials that include the National Security Agency, the National Security Cyber Assistance Program, the Cyber Incident Response Assistance Accreditation, associated acronyms, or other Agency references to the NSCAP Program Office for prior written approval.
11. An organization's participation in any portion of the CIRA Accreditation process constitutes acceptance of these terms and conditions and those contained within Version 3.0 of the CIRA Accreditation Instruction Manual.

Questions may be emailed to the NSCAP Program Office at NSCAP@nsa.gov.